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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 17 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garman (5,110,244) in view of Cabahug (5,613,816). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garman (5,110,244) in view of Cabahug (5,613,816) and in further view of Stoewer et al. (2002/0114680). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garman (5,110,244) in view of Cabahug (5,613,816) and in further view of Kutz (5,749,690). Claims 10-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garman (5,110,244) in view of Cabahug (5,613,816) and in further view of Summerlin et al. (4,653,969) and even in further view of Williams (4,822,223) and Cassatt et al. (5,816,761). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garman (5,110,244) in view of Cabahug (5,613,816) and in further view of Bradley, Jr. (4,684,284). Claims 19-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garman (5,110,244) in view of Cabahug (5,613,816) and in further view of Smith (4,573,844). Claim 25 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garman (5,110,244) in view of Cabahug (5,613,816) and in further view of Gibson et al. (6,179,512). The applicants respectfully submit that all claims are allowable over the cited references.

Specifically, Claim 1 requires, among other things, "a collet member having...an outer ribbed surface...and a compression ring member having...an inner ribbed surface". It further requires that the compression ring member to be "linearly traversable with respect to said outer ribbed surface said collet member between a first release position and a second engaged position", and that "said engaged position results in said ribbed surfaces compressing said collet member and tensilely loading said compression ring member to engage a shank member having an outer gripping surface..." One or more of the above-cited features are missing from *Garman* and *Cabahug*, applied individually or in combination, and regardless whether it is proper to combine the references.

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Significantly, each of the compression rings 44 in *Garman* is made of "two substantially half shells 63, 64". See *Garman* at col. 5, lines 42-48. The half shells are inserted into the counterbore of the opening 20 to engage the shear rings 42. See, *id.* and Figures 1-3. Because each of the compression rings is broken into two halves, the compression ring by itself cannot put a shear ring in compression. In fact, it is the counterbore that puts both the shear ring and compression ring in compression. The compression ring, therefore, is not tensilely loaded, as claim 1 requires. Neither does *Cabahug* disclose this feature. The Examiner identifies the internally threaded insert 87 in *Cabahug* as the component having an inner ribbed surface. However, even if one were to accept that the internal thread of the insert were a ribbed surface, that ribbed surface does not compress the movably mounted threaded elements 82, which appears to be the closest components in *Cabahug* to a collet member.

Thus, neither *Garman* nor *Cabahug* nor any legitimate combination thereof teaches or suggests all the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore not obvious over *Garman* or *Cabahug*, individually or in combination. Each of claims 2-5, 7-8, 17 and 23 is ultimately dependent on claim 1 and therefore includes additional features and advantages. Each of claims 2-5, 7-8, 17 and 23 is therefore not obvious over *Garman* and *Cabahug*.

As to the remaining claims (6, 9-16 and 18-25), each of them ultimately depends on claim 1 and therefore includes all features of claim 1 and additional features and advantages. The Examiner cited *Garman* and *Cabahug* in combination with at least one additional reference in rejecting each of these claims. As discussed above, *Garman* and *Cabahug*, individually or in combination, do not render claim 1 obvious. Any permissible combination of *Garman* and *Cabahug* with any of the additional references cited by the Examiner does not teach or suggest all the features of claim 1, much less all features of the dependent claims. Claims 6, 9-16 and 18-25 are therefore not obvious over the cited references.

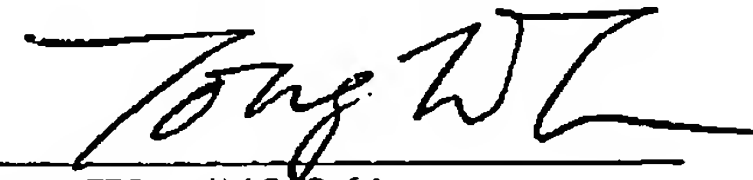
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No fee is believed to be necessary. Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 06-0029 and notify us of the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

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